

God's Kingdom: All Are Invited

Bible Lesson: Matthew 22:1-14

NEW WORDS

parable
invitation
wedding feast
servants
invited guests
attitude
reject
condemned
hell



In Matthew 22, Jesus tells a *parable* about a king who sent his *servants* out to bring the *invited guests* to the fancy *wedding feast* he was giving for his son. But the guests didn't want to come. So the king sent out his servants again. "Please come to the delicious feast I've prepared. There will be all kinds of wonderful food. And you have a special *invitation* to come!" But the invited guests wouldn't pay attention to the message. They just kept on doing what they were doing. Some went to their jobs, and some went to work on their farms. Some of those who were invited even grabbed the servants, beat them up, and killed them!

The Bible says that the kingdom of heaven is like a wedding feast. Not everyone who is invited comes to a wedding. Nor does everyone who has heard about Jesus come into the kingdom of heaven.

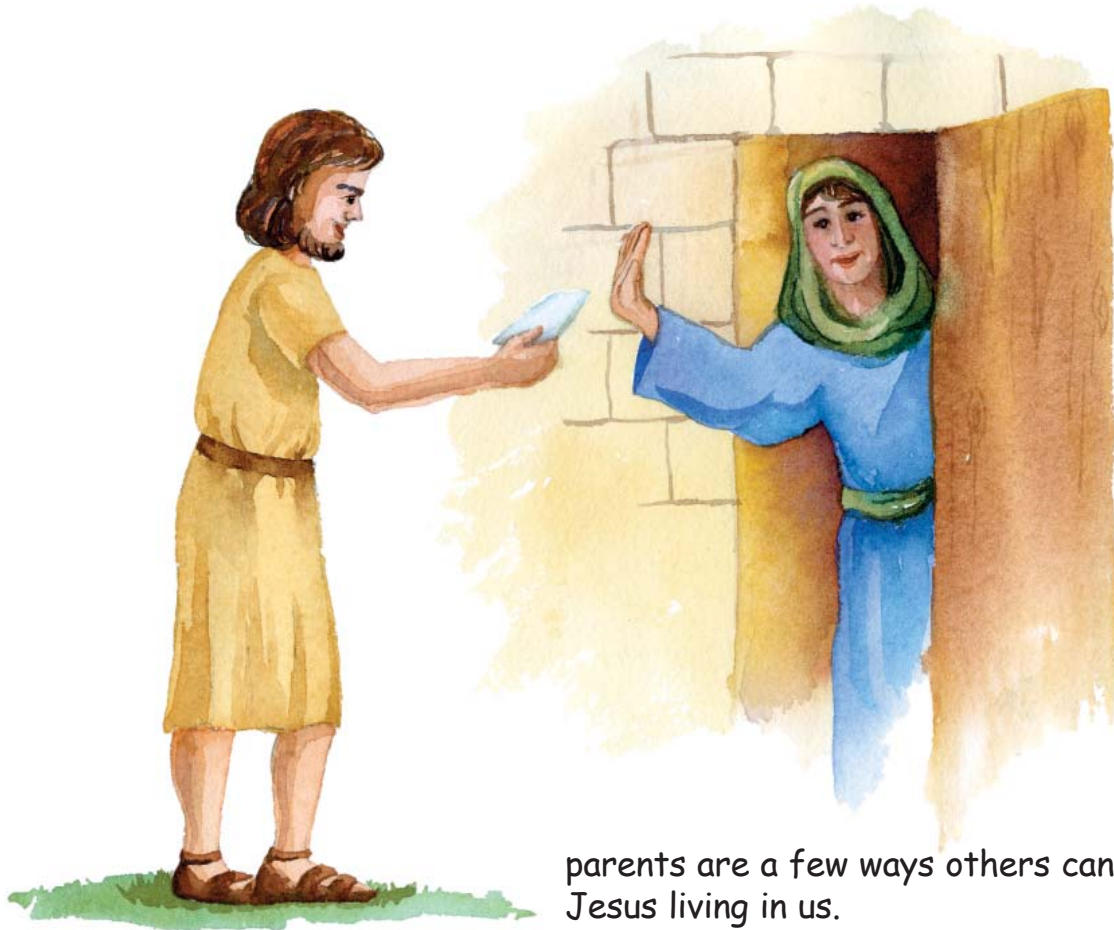
How sad it is that some people *reject*

God's message of salvation.

Some don't pay attention to God's message in His Word. Some don't want to take time for God. They have other things to do that they think are more important. And some even become angry at God's invitation to come to Him. Just like the guests in the story, some people reject the invitation and choose not to come. Those who continue to reject God's invitation are *condemned to hell*. Jesus says hell is a place of "outer darkness" where "there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth" (Matthew 22:13).

God still loves those who reject Him and wants all people to live with Him forever in heaven. He wants His wedding table in heaven filled just as the king in Matthew 22 did.

What can we do to help these people become God's children and become a part of

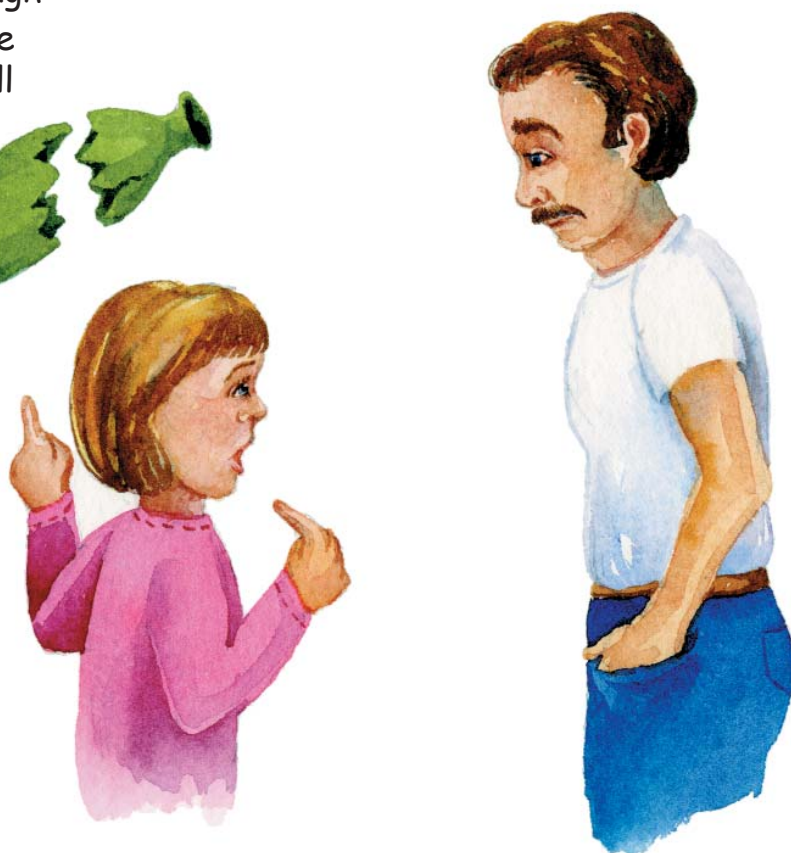


parents are a few ways others can see Jesus living in us.

the kingdom of heaven? We can pray for them. We can pray that they will listen to God's Word. We can pray that they will hear God's Spirit speaking to them through His Word. We can pray that they will see their need for a Savior and that they will trust in Jesus.

God wants all people to be saved and to join Him in His heavenly kingdom. God wants us to pray and live so others will believe in Jesus too.

We can also live our lives in a way that honors God so others will see Jesus in us. Matthew 5:16 says, "Let your light shine before men in such a way that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father who is in heaven." We let our light shine when we tell other people about Jesus and when we do things that honor God. Doing our work with a cheerful attitude, telling the truth even when it is hard to do, and being obedient to our





Memory Verse

"Truly, truly, I say to you, he who believes has eternal life."

John 6:47

Enrichment Memory Verse: II Corinthians 2:15

Use colored pencils to mark the KEY WORDS in the first paragraph of your lesson. The sentences below will give you clues for WHAT key words to look for.

1. Circle  in purple **WHO** was preparing to give a wedding feast or banquet? Circle all the words that refer to that person.
2. Color lightly in yellow **WHO** were sent to carry the message.
3. Underline in blue **WHAT** the message was.
4. Make a red box  around to **WHOM** the message was delivered.

What can we learn from the parable in Matthew 22? Draw a line to connect the parable words on the left to the comparable words on the right.

PARABLE

The king
The son
The servants
The invitation
The servants invite people to come
The wedding feast or banquet

COMPARABLE

Believers in Christ
God the Father
Jesus says, "Come unto Me"
Revelation 19:6-9
Jesus Christ
Christians tell the world about Jesus



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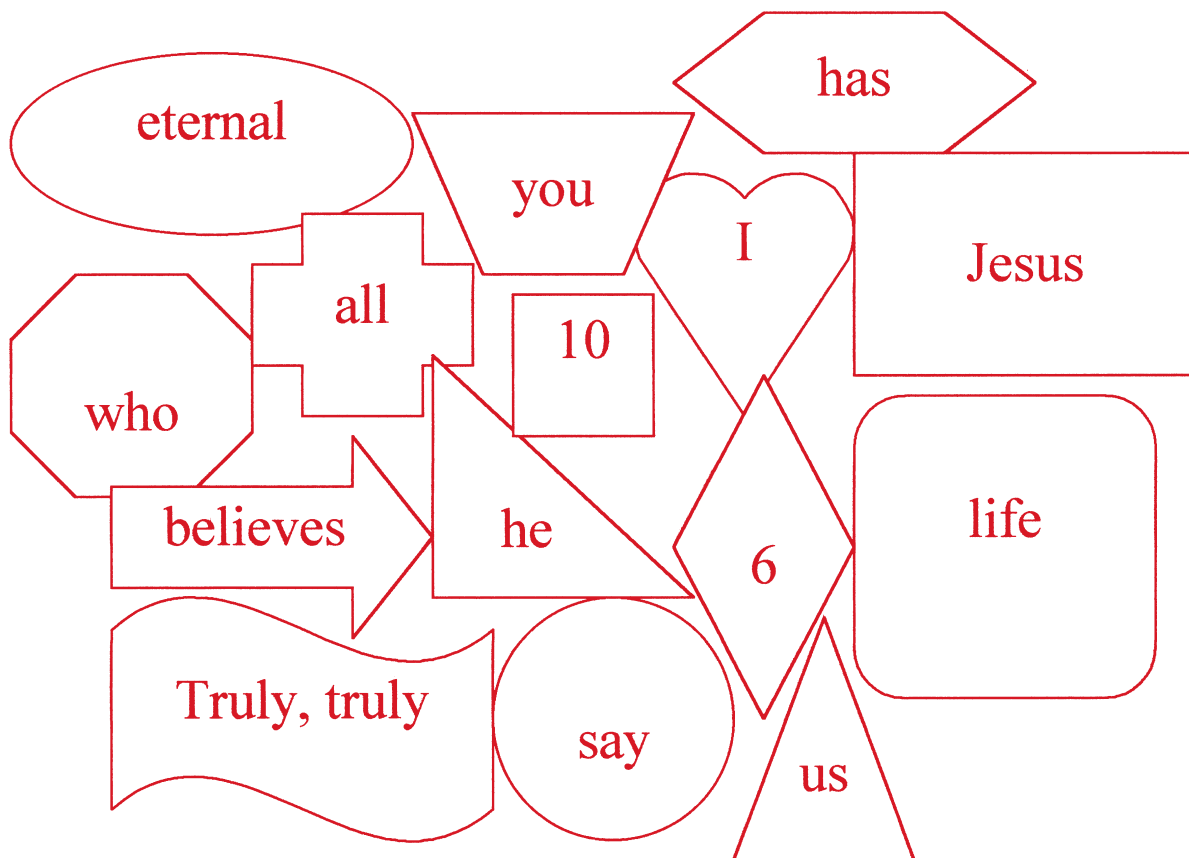
HOW can we show that we love Jesus and help others to become part of God's kingdom?

Circle each correct answer, and cross out each incorrect answer.
Discuss how to correct each incorrect answer.

1. Disobey our parents.
2. Pray for people who don't know Jesus.
3. Cheat on a test.
4. Say mean things to a friend.
5. Always tell the truth, even when it is hard to do.
6. Tell our friends about Jesus.
7. Complain about helping Dad or Mom.
8. Invite a neighbor to church.
9. Honor and respect teachers and others in authority.
10. Forgive people who have wronged us.

The Second Petition: Thy kingdom come.

How is this done? When our heavenly Father gives us His Holy Spirit, so that by His grace we believe His holy Word, . . .



Find the shapes above that match the shapes below each blank space. Put the word from the matching shape in the correct blank.

John _____ : 47 "Truly, truly, _____ say to _____, _____



_____ believes _____."

